

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ADDIS 00320 101409Z

42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O R 101202Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7658

INFO ALL OAU CAPITALS 0008

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 0320

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OAU AO CG

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN OAU

FOLLOWING ARE OBSERVATIONS, A FEW HOURS BEFORE OPENING OF
SUMMIT, FROM KENYA FONMIN AND OTHERS.

1. ANTI-MPLA WORKING GROUP LAST NIGHT FINISHED CONSTRUCTION OF
DRAFT RESOLUTION. AFTER LONGER PREAMBULAR SECTION, MAIN OPERATIVE
PROVISIONS ARE (A) DEMAND THAT ALL WORK FOR GOVT OF NATIONAL UNITY,
AND (B) CONDEMNATION OF AND DEMAND FOR CESSATION OF INTERFERENCE
BY OUTSIDE FORCES. THIS PART (B) IS IN TWO ALTERNATIVE FORMS, FOR
DECISION BY SUMMIT: ONE FORM NAMING ONLY SOUTH AFRICA (WITH
GENERAL LANGUAGE COVERING OTHER COUNTRIES), AND OTHER FORM NAMING
SOUTH AFRICA, SOVS, CUBANS, AND U.S.

2. MODERATES ARE CONSIDERABLY MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN BEFORE,
COUNTING A SOLID 24 COUNTRIES THAT WILL REFUSE TO VOTE FOR RECOGNI-
TION OF MPLA. KENYA FONMIN DETECTS MEASURABLE SOFTENING OF PREVIOUS
TANZANIAN AND MOZAMBIQUAN INSISTANCE ON PRO-MPLA SOLUTION, AND
WILLINGNESS TO EXAMINE ALTERNATIVES. OTHER PRO-MPLA COUNTRIES

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SECRET

PAGE 02 ADDIS 00320 101409Z

ARE ALSO SHOWING SIGNS OF PLACING PRIME IMPORTANCE ON SURVIVAL OF

OAU AND AVOIDANCE OF DAMAGING CONFRONTATION, WITH CONSEQUENT DRIFT ONWARD COMPROMISE. ACTIVE LOBBYING BY ANTI-MPLA FORCES IS GOING ON, WITH APPARENTLY INCREASINGLY EFFECTIVE RESULTS. CONCENSUS IS THAT ON PROCEDURAL VOTE A NUMBER OF PRO-MPLA COUNTRIES WILL VOTE IN FAVOR OF IMPORTANT QUESTION RATHER THAN STRAIGHT MPLA TICKET. PROSPECTIVE DEFECTIONS FROM PRO-MPLA RANKS ARE PARTLY RESULT OF FACT THAT MANY JOINED MPLA BANDWAGON IN EXPECTATION OF OVERWHELMING MAJORITY THAT WOULD AVOID A SPLIT IN OAU. SINCE LARGE MAJORITY FOR MPLA HAS FAILED TO EMERGE, SOME COUNTRIES REALIZE THEIR PRO-MPLA STANCE HAS FAILED TO AVOID SPLIT, AND LONG-TERM FUTURE OF OAU IS DIM IF NEARLY-EQUAL FORCES COME TO DIRECT CONFRONTATION.

3. ETHIOPIA IS GENERALLY KNOWN TO BE WAVERING AND I HAVE ENCOURAGED SOME FRIENDLIES TO LEAN HEAVILY ON EPMG. KENYA FONMIN SAYS HE INTENDS TO TELL EPMG FONMIN KIFLE THAT KENYA DOES NOT UNDERSTAND HOW ETHIOPIA CAN VOTE ON SIDE OF SOMALIA, AND IF IT DOES, ETHIOPIAN-KENYAN LOCAL COOPERATION AGAINST SOMALI THREAT WILL BE ENDANGERED. (COMMENT: I HAVE NOT SUGGESTED ANY PARTICULAR LINE TO USE ON EPMG.)

4. CHINESE THROUGH ACTIVE NCNA OFFICERS ARE PROMOTING LINE THAT OAU SHOULD CONFINE ITSELF TO RECOGNIZING "INDEPENDENT GOVT OF ANGOLA" WITHOUT SPECIFYING WHICH FACTION REPRESENTS THAT GOVT. CHINESE HAVE TOLD KENYANS THEY CANNOT UNDERSTAND TANZANIA'S PRO-MPLA STAND BECAUSE CHINESE AID TO TANZANIA IS FAR LARGER THAN SOVIET AID -- A LINE THAT AFRICANS FIND EXTREMELY NAIVE.
HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RECOGNITION, VOTING, SUMMIT MEETINGS, RESOLUTIONS, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ADDIS00320
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760010-0002
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760168/aaaaciec.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <13 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SITUATION IN OAU FOLLOWING ARE OBSERVATIONS, A FEW HOURS BEFORE OPENING OF
TAGS: PFOR, AO, CG, OAU, MPLA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006